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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 17 WARSAW 000217

SIPDIS  
SENSITIVE

STATE FOR G/TIP, EUR/PGI, EUR/CE, INL/HSTC, DRL/IL, PRM  
STATE PLEASE PASS USAID  
LABOR FOR ILAB

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KTIP](#) [KCRM](#) [PHUM](#) [KWMN](#) [SMIG](#) [KFRD](#) [ASEC](#) [PREF](#)

ELAB, PL

SUBJECT: POLAND - 2009 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

REF: A. 08 STATE 133137

[B](#). 08 STATE 132759

[C](#). 09 STATE 5577

[D](#). 09 WARSAW 18

[E](#). 09 WARSAW 24

[F](#). 09 WARSAW 113

[G](#). HALL/BANKS E-MAIL - 02/09/2009

[1](#). (SBU) SUMMARY. Poland is a country of origin, transit, and destination for victims of trafficking in persons (TIP). The majority of victims were trafficked to work in the sex industry, but Poland is increasingly becoming a destination country for forced labor. Government officials at the highest levels have acknowledged trafficking is a serious problem and demonstrated a strong commitment to combat it, including through development and implementation of a national anti-TIP strategy. Cooperation between the government, police, NGOs, academics, and international organizations is strong and continues to improve.

[2](#). (SBU) The impact of the global financial crisis notwithstanding, during the reporting period the GOP took action long advocated by NGOs and the USG: it stepped in to provide a significant increase in government funding for victim assistance programs. In addition, the GOP continued to provide training to improve prosecution of traffickers and victim identification. The national and local governments conducted several multi-faceted trafficking awareness campaigns. Although there are still problems with the number of prosecutions and severity of sentences, the GOP has stepped up efforts to raise awareness among judges and prosecutors about how to handle TIP cases and there is an increasing sense among both the government working groups and NGOs that there is momentum in the right direction. END SUMMARY.

EMBASSY CONTACT AND WORKLOAD

[3](#). (SBU) Embassy point of contact is Political Officer Jared Banks (telephone: 48-22-504-2621, fax 48-22-504-2613, e-mail banksj@state.gov).

[4](#). (U) Staff hours spent in preparation of this report are as follows:

-- Deputy Chief of Mission - FE-OC: 2 hours  
-- Political Counselor - FS-01: 2 hours  
-- Deputy Political Counselor - FS-02: 10 hours  
-- Political Officer - FS-04: 30 hours

-- Political Specialist ? LES-08: 80 hours

15. (SBU) Following are responses keyed to questions in paragraphs 23-29 of refs B and C.

POLAND'S TIP SITUATION  
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23.A. SOURCES. The main sources for information and statistics contained in this report are international and local NGOs, OSCE/ODIHR, and Polish ministries, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior Affairs and Administration, Ministry of Justice, Border Guards, and the Polish National Police. All have proven to be reliable sources of information in the past. (See 24.D for further actions to document human trafficking in Poland.)

23.B. VICTIMS. Poland is a country of origin, transit, and destination for trafficking of men, women and children. Poland is becoming a destination country for an increasing number of victims, particularly from countries of the former Soviet Union. Persons are trafficked to and through Poland primarily from countries to the east and southeast, including Ukraine (sexual exploitation and labor), Bulgaria (sexual exploitation and begging), Romania (underage begging) and Belarus. Other groups of trafficked persons were Chechen women from refugee camps. Groups from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were reportedly trafficked for labor exploitation. A group of women from Mongolia was also trafficked for the purpose of forced labor and labor exploitation. During the reporting period, one person was trafficked from Vietnam and one

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person from China. A growing number of victims came from Africa, including Sudan, Senegal, Kenya, Djibouti and Uganda. According to the leading anti-trafficking NGO in Poland, La Strada, some of the women from Africa may have been in transit to Western Europe when they were identified, or escaped from their captors, in Poland.

Countries of destination were primarily in Western Europe, including Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands. The illicit nature of trafficking in persons makes it difficult to determine the number of victims, particularly those of Polish citizenship, and estimates vary substantially.

There were also some cases of trafficking within Poland's borders, especially of women trafficked for sexual exploitation.

A few new trafficking trends or developments were identified during the reporting period. At least one African victim was trafficked to Poland on a sports visa, and later sexually exploited. The case of a Ugandan woman being trafficked to Western Europe, who escaped from her captors in Warsaw's central train station and was rescued by the police, received significant media attention. A Chinese woman trafficked to work in the sewing industry was identified as being in debt bondage, reportedly as the result of a Border Guard intelligence lead. The Nobody's Children Foundation reported that the number of unattended minors applying for refugee status in Poland continued to decrease. However, Nobody's Children expressed a growing concern about reports of teenage girls and boys engaged in "weekend prostitution," particularly in Germany. One NGO said there were reports of "thousands" of Vietnamese forced to work in debt bondage; one Vietnamese victim was identified during the year and agreed to testify. There were also unconfirmed reports of Vietnamese victims traveling to Poland via Ukraine on foot who fell victim to other crimes en route. There were unconfirmed reports that Russian and Ukrainian authorities were unresponsive to signals from the Polish

government about the problem. Post continues to investigate the case of a group of 12 Tajik and Uzbek truck drivers who came to Poland with official visas and work permits, but then found themselves living and working in poor conditions. Post will provide additional information on these and other cases as it becomes available.

23.C. TRAFFICKING CONDITIONS. The conditions into which victims are trafficked vary depending on the form of exploitation. In the case of trafficking for labor exploitation, victims are often trafficked into poor living and working conditions, e.g., they are not given sufficient funds to buy food, receive no or very low wages, are obliged to sign fake contracts and/or are placed in debt bondage. In the case of trafficking for sexual exploitation, the physical living conditions may be better; however, victims are often forced to endure sexual exploitation, psychological and physical violence, and a threatening environment. Many are placed in debt bondage.

23.D. VULNERABLE GROUPS. The most vulnerable groups are women, teenage girls and boys, ethnic minorities, refugees, and persons coming from regions of conflict or poverty. Generally, groups that exist on the margins of society for economic and social reasons are the most vulnerable. This also includes uninformed and unprepared migrant workers who are looking for employment. According to the Interior Ministry, most victims are young females between 16 and 20 years of age. They tend to be unemployed, with limited financial means, and no education beyond the primary school level.

23.E. TRAFFICKERS AND THEIR METHODS. Traffickers in Poland are both individuals and organized criminal groups. Non-Polish victims are often approached by friends of friends or members of the same local community who offer them prosperous jobs abroad. Cases of trafficking by family members are rare. False documents are used infrequently, especially within Europe, since Poland's 2007 accession to the EU's Schengen zone. Most TIP victims enter Poland legally, but after arrival are

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exploited under conditions of forced labor, isolation, or debt bondage. The Polish National Police observed that after Poland's entry into the Schengen zone, traffickers from non-Schengen countries began to arrange visas for victims to stay in Poland; the trafficker then violates visa rules by taking the victim to other Schengen countries, generally in Western Europe. Trafficking is often related to other crimes, most often to drug trafficking or trafficking in weapons.

NGOs report that Poland's accession to the Schengen zone has made it more difficult for Border Guards to detect trafficking victims. Although the Border Guards no longer check documents -- and Customs officials do not conduct related inspections -- at former border crossings with neighboring Schengen countries, the Border Guard continues to conduct roving patrols throughout the country, particularly along international transit routes, to detect illegal activity, including trafficking.

#### GOVERNMENT ANTI-TIP EFFORTS

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24.A. GOVERNMENT POSITION. Polish government officials at the highest levels acknowledge the seriousness of the trafficking problem in Poland, and are taking action to address the problem. In January 2009, the Interagency Working Group adopted the third National Action Plan for Combating and Preventing Human Trafficking for 2009-2010, which follows on and strengthens the previous National Action Plans from 2003-2004, 2005-2006, and 2007-2008.

The new Action Plan includes goals in three areas: prevention and information gathering, enhanced support for law enforcement activities, and victim/witness protection.

The Interior Ministry held its third national conference on combating and preventing human trafficking on October 22 (see ref D). The conference was attended by approximately 120 people, including representatives of Polish ministries and central government institutions, law enforcement officials, lawyers, NGOs, academics, social workers and researchers. The conference reviewed successes of the past year and focused on three main areas of concern: forced labor, trafficking in children, and enhanced effectiveness of law enforcement. The recommendations proposed during the conference were reflected in the tasks written into the 2009-2010 National Action Plan. The conference has become a regular annual activity sponsored by the government and coincides with EU-wide Anti-Trafficking Day which falls on October 16.

24.B. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. The Interior Ministry is the lead coordinator of the Inter-Ministerial Anti-Trafficking Team, which was established in accordance with the Prime Minister's Regulations issued in March 2004. An Undersecretary of State (Deputy Minister) in the Interior Ministry chairs the team, which includes members from the Ministries of Education, Labor and Social Policy, Justice, Foreign Affairs, Health, and Interior, as well as the Office of the Prosecutor General, the Office for Foreigners, Chief Labor Inspectorate, Polish National Police, and the Border Guards. The team also includes NGO representatives active in assisting TIP victims (La Strada, ITAKA, Nobody's Children Foundation, and Caritas). The role of the group is to assess the implementation of the National Anti-Trafficking Plan, prepare new proposals and opinions on strategies aimed at effective anti-TIP efforts, and facilitate cooperation between the central government, local governments, and NGOs in combating trafficking.

Parallel to the team, an inter-ministerial working group was established, which meets regularly to work on anti-trafficking efforts. The work of the Interagency Team and Working Group is supported by the Unit for Trafficking in Human Beings, which was established in 2007 within the Migration Policy Department of the Interior Ministry. Its main tasks are to support the work of the Interagency Team, monitor the implementation National Anti-Trafficking Plan, and to implement the Witness/Victim Protection Program for foreigners.

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In addition to the Inter-Ministerial Anti-Trafficking Structures, the National Police has a Central Anti-Trafficking Unit to combat human trafficking, pedophilia and pornography. This unit currently has five full-time police officers and 1 civilian employee (currently two positions are vacant), and it serves as liaison for 17 regional police units around the country. These regional units employ a total of 46 individuals and are established in all 16 provinces around Poland and in the city of Warsaw.

On June 18, 2008, the National Border Guard established a central specialized team, which consists of specialists from different Border Guard departments and serves as liaison for regional Border Guard coordinators who were set up in all 12 regional Border Guard Units around the country.

In addition, in 2007 regional prosecutorial offices that handle appeals cases around the country appointed TIP consultants to assist prosecutors with trafficking cases

and, when the case is particularly complicated, to assume lead responsibility for the TIP case.

24.C. PRACTICAL LIMITATIONS. The primary limitations are the lack of a legal definition of trafficking, implementation of already established standard operating procedures for investigations and prosecutions, the need for wider use of victim identification techniques, funding for victim assistance.

Poland still does not have a legal definition of trafficking. Poland's criminal code outlaws human trafficking, but does not specifically define it. NGOs and university experts claim that the absence of such a definition in national law is problematic because prosecutors and (especially) judges are not sufficiently well informed or aware of the offense. As a result, traffickers are often prosecuted under different violations of the criminal code, e.g., rape, sexual assault, which have similarly stringent penalties. The Interagency Working Group once again ranked amending the criminal code to incorporate the Palermo Protocol definition as a major priority of the new National Action Plan for 2009-2010.

While Poland has developed sophisticated, detailed standard operating procedures for victim referrals / assistance and trafficking investigations / prosecutions, implementation has been lacking. According to La Strada, the government has developed comprehensive guidelines and standard operating procedures for law enforcement dealing with trafficking victims. However, that information is not always properly distributed to lower level officers. Similarly, the guidelines for prosecutors, including the application of the requirement to allow victims a "reflection period" to decide whether to press charges and/or cooperate with criminal investigations are not properly utilized in regional units.

Funding for victim assistance has been insufficient and unstable in the past. The only specialized shelter for TIP victims has been funded primarily through foreign and EU sources; the shelter was on the verge of closing down at the end of 2008 because of a funding shortage. However, the Prime Minister's Chancellery allocated reserve funds to the Interior Ministry to keep the shelter running until the end of 2009 (see Ref F.) The government has allocated funds to transform this new funding mechanism into a stable funding basis for TIP victim assistance (see 26.C).

Proper identification of victims of trafficking is another problem, especially because most TIP victims cross Poland's borders legally, because non-law enforcement officials do not have adequate training to detect migrants working under exploitive conditions, and because of the large number of victims who transit Poland. Despite increased training for police and border guards and new mandates for the labor inspectorate, many victims continue to go unidentified.

Although corruption within the police force is generally a problem in Poland, NGOs reported that police corruption

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did not contribute significantly to the problem of trafficking in persons. Instances of corruption and serious criminal misconduct are investigated by the Polish National Police's Internal Affairs Office.

24.D. GOVERNMENT MONITORING. The Interior Ministry systematically gathers information on trafficking in persons. In February 2008, the Ministry published its first comprehensive report on trafficking; the material was also posted on the website, 1000 copies were printed and 200 CDs produced. Parts of the report were translated

into English. The second edition of the report is scheduled for early 2009.

The Interior Ministry collects statistical information on the number of investigations and the way they were concluded (e.g. indictment act or closure of the case). The statistical data also covers the number of victims assisted by La Strada, the number of victims granted police protection and the number of cases in which the "reflection period" was applied.

The Office for Combating Organized Crime in the National Prosecutor's Office collects, on an annual basis, information on the analysis of criminal proceedings against traffickers, including the number of investigations initiated and concluded, number of indictment acts against traffickers, and number of victims. The Ministry of Justice also collects information on the number of convictions under anti-trafficking provisions of the criminal code.

In 2008 the Interior Ministry joined a project run by the International Center for Migration on Trafficking in Human Beings -- "Data Collection and Harmonized Information Management Systems" -- which is scheduled to run from May 2008 to October 2009. The main goal of the project is to establish uniform guidelines for collecting statistical information which will be applied in the countries participating in the project (i.e. Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and the Czech Republic). The project is jointly carried out by experts from police, Border Guard, Ministry of Justice, National Prosecution and La Strada.

#### INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKERS

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25.A. CRIMINAL LAW ON TRAFFICKING. Polish law prohibits forcing individuals into prostitution, trafficking in human beings, and pimping. The relevant sections of the criminal code are Articles 253 (sexual and non-sexual trafficking); Article 204, para 4 (abduction into prostitution); and Article 203 (forced prostitution) effective September 1, 1998.

-- Article 253 para 1 of the Criminal Code states that whoever "traffics in persons, even with their consent, is subject to a sentence of imprisonment for a period of time not shorter than 3 years."

-- Article 204 para 4 states that a perpetrator whoever "entices or abducts a person into prostitution abroad shall be subject to a sentence of imprisonment for a period of time from 1 to 10 years."

-- Article 203 states that "whoever, by force, illegal threat or deceit, or by abusing a relationship dependence or by taking advantage of a critical situation, subjects another person to practice prostitution, shall be subject to the penalty of imprisonment for a term between 1 and 10 years."

The laws cover both internal and external trafficking, and do not require proof that the victim was coerced in order to secure a conviction.

Poland has adopted the UN Protocol on Trafficking in Persons (Palermo Protocol). The National Prosecutor's Office uses this definition of trafficking in its prosecutions and states that its prosecution efforts have not been adversely affected by the absence of a specific definition in Polish national law; however, the National Prosecutor's Office concedes that judges sometimes choose

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to issue convictions on the basis of articles other than

253, as it is easier to provide evidence in support of other offenses. NGOs and law enforcement officials claim the lack of a definition negatively impacts effective prosecution and discourages judges and prosecutors from prosecuting under article 253 (trafficking).

On November 17, 2008, Poland ratified the 2005 Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. The Convention will enter into force in Poland on March 1, 2009 (ref D).

25.B. CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR SEX TRAFFICKING. The maximum penalty for (sexual and non-sexual) trafficking in persons is 15 years' imprisonment under Article 253 of the Criminal Code (minimum of three years' imprisonment). Article 204, section 4 of the Code provides for up to ten years' imprisonment for trafficking involving prostitution. This article is not often used, as prosecutors use Article 253 in most trafficking cases. Article 203 also provides for imprisonment from 1 to 10 years. Most sentences are shorter than the maximum, with the most severe sentences reserved for those convicted of trafficking minors for the purpose of prostitution or luring/abducting adults into prostitution abroad.

25.C. CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR LABOR TRAFFICKING. Cases of trafficking for labor exploitation are prosecuted under Article 253 (described above) or organized crime statutes, as appropriate.

The Polish Constitution guarantees the freedom to choose and pursue an occupation and to choose the place of work. It places an obligation on the state to supervise the conditions of work, prohibits the employment of children younger than 16 years of age, and obliges the state to set minimum wages and maximum working hours.

Poland has ratified and incorporated into national legal regulations the international conventions governing forced labor and employee exploitation, including the 1957 ILO Convention on the Abolition of Forced Labor, the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and the 1999 ILO Convention on the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor.

The Polish criminal code has special provisions on crimes against the rights of employees:

-- Article 218 (malicious violation of rights): "A person shall be subject to a fine, deprivation of liberty, or up to 2 years' imprisonment if he maliciously or persistently violates employee rights granted under an employment contract or social insurance while carrying out activities involving the labor code and social insurance regulations?."

-- Article 220 (putting an employee at risk of death or severe injury): "A person who is responsible for health and safety shall be liable to 3 years' imprisonment, if he fails to comply with the relevant duties and by doing so puts the employee at direct risk of death or severe injury".

The Polish Labor Inspectorate is the main government body responsible for supervising and auditing employers, including work and safety conditions, legality of employment (both Poles and foreigners), right to remuneration and other work-related benefits, e.g., working hours, etc. The Labor Inspectorate also monitors and supervises the activities of private employment agencies that recruit people to work abroad.

In accordance with the labor code, a victim of forced labor can file employment-related claims in a labor court for failure to comply with health and safety regulations, the right to annual leave, and the lack of remuneration for work performed. Under the civil code, an individual



may file a civil suit and demand compensation if the terms of a labor contract signed with the employer are not fulfilled.

#### 25.D. CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT.

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According to Criminal Code Article 197, using violence, threat, or deceit to force a person to have sexual intercourse is punishable by two to twelve years' imprisonment. Using such means to force a person into other sexual activity is punishable by six months' to eight years' imprisonment. In cases involving more than one perpetrator, the punishment cannot be shorter than three years. In cases involving excessive cruelty, the punishment ranges from minimum five years up to twelve years imprisonment, compared to up to fifteen years for trafficking under Article 253.

25.E. LAW ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS. According to the National Prosecutor's Office, in 2008 prosecutors concluded 53 investigations; there were also 51 investigations pending at the end of the year, some of which were initiated in 2008 and some in 2007. Of the 53 concluded investigations, there were 28 indictments involving a total of 78 individuals. Of the 78 individuals indicted, seven were foreigners (five Bulgarians and two Germans). Four investigations were discontinued due to the failure to locate the offender, and 21 were discontinued because prosecutors were unable to confirm that an offense took place. A total of 315 victims were involved. In 2008, four victims were granted police protection. Of the 315 victims, five were 17 years old and two individuals were 16 years old.

According to the Statistics Bureau of the Ministry of Justice, there were 18 convictions under Article 253 and 28 convictions under Article 203 of the penal code in 2008. These sentences were issued by courts of first instance and are subject to appeal. Statistics for convictions under Article 204 are not yet available. Post will submit complete conviction and sentencing data (post-appeal) for 2008 when such data become available.

Final (post-appeal) data for 2007 shows that there were three convictions under Article 253 (human trafficking), of which one was suspended; there was one conviction under Article 204 (forced prostitution abroad), which was suspended; and 15 convictions (including one case of a minor) under Article 203 (forced prostitution), of which nine were suspended. These sentences were upheld by appellate courts, and they are final. Of the 19 prison sentences, there were four one-year sentences, seven one-to-two year sentences, six two-year sentences, and two three-five year sentences. Of the individuals convicted 17 were Polish citizens and two were foreigners (Belarus and Moldova).

The number of new police investigations related to trafficking increased in 2008. According to the Central Anti-Trafficking Police Unit, police initiated 18 new investigations of human trafficking under Article 253 of the Criminal Code in 2008. As a result of these investigations, police identified 60 trafficking offenses and forwarded 59 cases to prosecution for indictment. Police managed to identify 62 victims, including 14 foreigners. In addition, police identified three cases of forced prostitution under Article 204, which included four victims. Police forwarded two cases to the prosecution office for indictment. Police also initiated 19 new investigations under Article 203 (forced prostitution), which resulted in identifying 35 offenses. Thirty-four cases were forwarded to prosecution for indictment. These cases included the total of 28 victims, including two foreigners. According to the Ministry of Interior, in 2008 the Border Guard initiated three new



investigations into trafficking and referred six victims to the Witness/Victim Protection Program.

25.F. TRAINING. The government, in cooperation with NGOs, foreign missions, the EU, and international organizations, provides specialized training in how to recognize, investigate, and prosecute trafficking. Some examples are provided below.

In April, the Interior Ministry, in cooperation with the Human Trafficking Studies Center of the Warsaw University, organized training of police and border guard instructors (train-the-trainer) on trafficking in persons. The training was co-funded by the Interior Ministry and the European Commission. The training was

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addressed to instructors from police and border guard academies and representatives of provincial police headquarters who deal with human rights violations on a regional level.

In June, the National Border Guard Headquarters organized a three-day training session for coordinators who deal with trafficking issues in provincial police headquarters, Border Guard units and prosecution. The training covered legal status of foreigners, travel documents, case studies of trafficking cases, and sensitivity to the psychological condition of trafficking victims. The Border Guard Headquarters also organized an advanced three-day training session for Border Guard officers who work in investigation and border traffic departments or oversee the monitoring of foreigners. The training will be continued in 2009. In addition, the Border Guard Training Academy organized a viewing for all students at the officer level of a Polish-made movie on trafficking ("My name is Justine"), which was preceded by a lecture on trafficking in persons.

In May and November, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, in cooperation with La Strada, organized specialized training for employees of Crisis Intervention Centers (see 26.B). The training focused on victim identification, sensitive handling of trafficking victims, provision of victim assistance in accordance with the 2007 revision of the Law on Social Assistance (see 26.A), crisis intervention, and principles of cooperation with other countries. The first training took place in May 2008 and covered social workers from Poland's eight eastern provinces. The second training took place in November and was addressed to the staff of the Crisis Intervention Centers from the eight western provinces. A total of 60 social workers were trained.

As a follow-up to the 2007 training program for judges, in 2008 the British Embassy, Interior Ministry, Ministry of Justice and La Strada cooperated in providing a training program on trafficking for prosecutors. The first training session was held in December and was attended by 30 prosecutors. The second session for the same group is scheduled for April 2009. The training is delivered as part of the National Anti-Trafficking Program. The goal of this training was to expand the knowledge of prosecutors on the definition of human trafficking, in particular in the context of Polish domestic law, characteristics of the phenomenon of trafficking and the specific situation of victims. Part of the training concerned the identification of both underage and adult trafficking victims.

In September, the Central Bureau of Investigations (CBI) organized two-day training session for CBI officers, which focused on efforts undertaken and challenges facing law enforcement in combating trafficking.

The Interior Ministry prepared a special module about

trafficking in children for directors of orphanage homes and representatives of provincial government offices which supervise those institutions.

The NGO Nobody's Children provided training to a mix of approximately 500 social workers and law enforcement officials throughout the country on child trafficking issues. The NGO also published and distributed awareness campaign flyers and an information booklet in cooperation with the Interior Ministry.

Training on human trafficking is included in the curriculum of all soldiers and police officers who are to be deployed for peacekeeping missions abroad (see 27.G).

There were also training sessions and conferences on the regional level. In May, the Provincial Police Headquarters in Krakow organized a three-day training session for police officers from criminal and prevention divisions on standard operating procedures when dealing with trafficking offenses. In September, the Krakow regional police also organized a one-day training session for officers of police, border guard and municipal guards on preventing and combating trafficking for the purpose of begging. In June, the Provincial Police Headquarters

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in Radom together with Mazovia Social Policy Center held a conference "Let's not traffic in people," which was addressed to police officers from prevention and criminal bureaus of the Mazovia Police Garrison. In October, the District Police Unit in Strzelce Opolskie and a Regional Center of Social Policy organized a two-day conference on "Modern-day Slavery," which was devoted to trafficking in persons (including, children, organs and forced labor). The conference was attended by officers of the prevention and criminal bureaus of the Opole police garrison.

The NGO La Strada participated in the majority of training sessions organized by government institutions in Poland, either as an organizer (full involvement), partner (partnership with other institutions), or by providing guest speakers, lecturers, or trainers. La Strada co-organized three training sessions for higher-level personnel of refugee centers with the Office for Foreigners, UNHCR, and the Interior Ministry. La Strada also organized two training sessions on gender-based violence in Lublin and Warsaw refugee reception centers and training for social workers. On an international level, La Strada organized three train-the-trainer training sessions for Ukrainian police under a British Council project.

25.G. INTERNATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION. The government cooperates with other governments in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking case, especially with its closest neighbors. The Polish National Police participate in several bilateral task forces that share information, track the movements of traffickers and victims across borders and coordinate repatriations and casework. Bilateral efforts include Polish task forces which work jointly with Czech, German, and Swedish Police forces, and one multilateral task force that coordinates efforts among Polish and Baltic-nation Police forces on anti-trafficking efforts.

In 2008 the Police National Headquarters began work on establishing a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) with German Police. Although a framework was agreed upon for establishing the JIT, the team has not been created yet due to differences between Polish and German criminal law. Nevertheless, during investigations on individual trafficking cases, regional police headquarters establish direct contact with Liaison Officers of interested countries. Police usually exchange information with the countries of destination (Italy, Germany, Spain, United

Kingdom), and countries of origin (Ukraine, Belarus, Bulgaria, Romania and Moldova).

Polish officials also actively participate and co-sponsor international trafficking conferences. The Ministry of Interior hosted a November 17-22 workshop on combating organized crime for officials from Ukraine's Interior Ministry. Part of the workshop focused on international and interagency cooperation in combating human trafficking. Police officers from the Central Anti-Trafficking Unit participated in two seminars on human trafficking organized by the European Police Academy CEPOL (in Lithuania and the Czech Republic). In May, police officers participated in a meeting of the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings, which is established at the Council of the Baltic Sea States. The meeting was followed by a seminar which was attended by NGOs that provide assistance to trafficking victims. Polish police also participated in a research project "Polish-German exchange and workshop for police units which combat human trafficking", carried out by a Hannover-based advocacy center for TIP victims in cooperation with La Strada. The Anti-Trafficking Team of the Interior Ministry organized a research project on: "Polish-Moldovan exchange of best practices and expertise." The project included a seminar on combating human trafficking hosted by the Police Academy in Szczytno. The project was funded by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A similar project, also funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was organized for Ukraine. Police officers also attended an EU-funded international conference devoted to the analysis of criminal phenomena, including human trafficking, which occur on the territory of the EU member states.

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According to police statistics, in 2008 foreigners were involved in committing approximately 60-70 trafficking-related offenses; the majority of those cases involved cooperation and an exchange of information with foreign governments. The Central Police Unit for Combating Human Trafficking and Child Pornography regularly exchanges information with Europol, Interpol and Police of other countries in the area of human trafficking, child pornography, and pedophilia.

25.H. EXTRADITIONS. The Polish criminal code allows for the extradition of Polish citizens to other EU countries. In 2008 there was one extradition procedure initiated involving a Ukrainian citizen. There were no cases of extradition of Polish citizens related to human trafficking.

25.I. GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT. Mission Poland has no evidence indicating that the government is involved in or tolerates trafficking.

25.J. COMPLICITY. Mission Poland has no evidence that governmental authorities condone or are otherwise involved or complicit in trafficking. To date, there have been no cases of law-enforcement officials punished for trafficking-related corruption.

25.K. LEGAL SITUATION OF PROSTITUTES. While prostitution is not criminalized, pimping, recruiting, or luring persons into prostitution carry penalties of up to 10 years in prison. According to the Interior Ministry, the police regularly screen escort services in cooperation with the Polish Labor Inspectors. In addition, in 2008 the Polish Labor Inspectorate signed an agreement with the Border Guard to conduct joint screening of escort services. In the first half of 2008, police closed 57 of 565 escort services operating in Poland. In the second half of the year, police closed 69 agencies out of the 530 in operation during that six-month period.

Under the current version of the Polish criminal code, the legal age of consent to sexual activity is 15. Poland has ratified the Palermo Protocol, the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of Children (of May 25, 2000), and the EU Convention on the Rights of Children. All of these documents prohibit prostitution by individuals less than 18 years of age. According to the Polish Constitution (Art. 87) and international law, the provisions of these documents automatically become part of Polish law and act to prohibit child prostitution as therein defined. Full implementation of the protocols and Convention will require changes, inter alia, in the Polish Criminal, Family and Labor Codes. The prosecutor's office states that anyone (including a parent) assisting a person under the age of 18 to engage in prostitution would be assumed to be benefiting financially from this assistance and would be investigated and prosecuted accordingly.

25.L. INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING. According to the Military Prosecution Office, no Polish nationals deployed abroad as part of a peacekeeping mission engaged in or facilitated any form of trafficking, nor were there any known cases of exploiting trafficking victims.

25.M. CHILD SEX TOURISM. According to the Government and NGOs, child sex tourism is not a significant problem in Poland.

#### PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS -----

26.A. VICTIM AND WITNESS PROTECTION. Polish law allows foreign victims to remain in Poland legally during the investigation and trial of their traffickers. At the end of 2005, the Law on Aliens was amended to provide for a "reflection period" during which foreign trafficking victims are allowed to stay legally in Poland while deliberating whether or not to participate in the prosecution of their traffickers. The Law on Aliens was further revised in October 2008 to extend the reflection period to three months. This new provision entered into force on January 1, 2009. During 2008, two victims used the reflection period.

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Videoconference testimony from abroad is permitted and regularly used.

The revised Law on Social Assistance, which entered into force on April 1, 2007, provides that all foreign victims of trafficking are entitled to the same type of social welfare benefits as Polish citizens. The revised law also gives foreign victims the right to access crisis intervention assistance, shelter, food, clothing and living allowance, and entitlement to stay at Crisis Intervention Centers.

26.B. VICTIM CARE FACILITIES. There is one specialized shelter in Poland for victims of trafficking. Located in Warsaw, the shelter is operated by La Strada and funded until recently primarily through foreign and EU funds. The shelter is available only for adult women without children. The law on social assistance provides that all victims (both Polish and of foreign nationality) have access to social assistance, including financial and non-financial support (e.g., crisis intervention, shelter, food, necessary clothing). Child victims of trafficking are placed in orphanages and foster families. There are no specific shelters for male victims so they are placed either in homeless shelters or half-way houses for recently released prison inmates.

Trafficking victims may also stay in specialized Crisis Intervention Centers for victims of domestic violence. There were 37 such centers operated by local governments and funded by central government. These Crisis Intervention Centers provide social, medical, psychological, and legal assistance to victims. (See 25.F for details on capacity building for the Crisis Intervention Centers).

26.C. GOVERNMENT PROVISION OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE SERVICES. The government provides trafficking victims with access to legal, medical and psychological services in cooperation with NGOs and international organizations. The assistance has been funded by the government, the EU, international organizations, and foreign missions.

In 2008 the Interior Ministry continued funding the Program for Support and Protection of Victim/Witness of Trafficking in Human Beings (see 26.D). This Witness/Victim Protection Program, implemented by La Strada, provides the following assistance: crisis intervention (medical and psychological assistance, safe transportation and shelter, food, clothing, lodging support and counseling); legal counseling when contacting law enforcement and judiciary, assistance in legalizing the stay in Poland and/or organization of safe return to the country of origin. In 2008 the Government allocated USD 38,000 (PLN 143,000) for the implementation of the Witness/Victim Protection Program. The amount for 2009 is USD 40,500 (150,000.00 PLN).

In 2009 the government allocated an additional USD 190,000 (700,000 PLN) to establish and operate the new National Intervention-Consultation Center for Victims of Trafficking. The Center should begin operation in April and will include: 24/7 hotline for victims and witnesses, crisis intervention, consultation point for local government and central authorities on working with TIP victims, preventive activities, and running the shelter for trafficking victims. Until recently, government funding for these types of activities through La Strada covered less than 10 percent of La Strada's operating expenses. In 2008, La Strada's shelter was funded partly by the Interior Ministry (USD 13,500, or 50,000 PLN), Mazovia regional authorities (USD 16,200, or 60,000 PLN) and EU funds (USD 13,500, or 50,000 PLN). In addition, La Strada also continued to receive a grant from the Norwegian government, which covered legal assistance and other services, including legal counseling, social workers, case managers and hotline consultants. The Interior Ministry is preparing a public tender for the new center and La Strada will likely be awarded the grant because of its high-level of expertise (Ref E).

Other local organizations, such as Nobody's Children

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Foundation, Halina Niec Center for Legal Assistance, Catholic Church-affiliated Caritas, and the Association for Assistance to Women and Girls, also provide victim assistance. Nobody's Children Foundation is funded mainly through an international philanthropy foundation called the Oak Foundation, and through small private donations

Since 2005, the International Office for Migration (IOM) has worked with Interior Ministry on assisting trafficking victims through a voluntary return program. According to IOM representatives, they assist 4-5 victims per year in voluntary return to the country of origin. Also, in 2008 the Warsaw-based Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the OSCE provided a small grant to La Strada to provide assistance to 12 Uzbek and Tajik men, who are being handled as possible victims of forced labor (see 23.B).

In 2008 the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy allocated USD 1.2 million (4.42 million PLN) to open new Crisis Intervention Centers and expand operations at existing centers (see 26.B).

26.D. ASSISTANCE FOR FOREIGN VICTIMS. The government assists foreign trafficking victims. The Victim/Witness Protection Program is initiated if the foreign victim agrees to break all contacts with the traffickers. The program allows for a three-month period during which the victim is granted full assistance and may decide on whether she/he would like to cooperate with law enforcement. If the victim decides against testifying, he/she can voluntarily return to the country of origin. If the person decides to testify, their legally authorized presence in Poland may be extended. After the trial, the victim is offered a safe return to their country of origin and informed about victim assistance programs offered by the NGOs in their country. There were no reported cases of deportations of trafficking victims during the reporting period.

26.E. LONG-TERM BENEFITS AND REINTEGRATION. Although there is no special government program for reintegration of victims, all victims (both Polish and foreign) are entitled to government assistance. Victims of trafficking have access to a number of social benefits, including psychological assistance, social and legal counseling, and shelter. The victim may also receive permanent or temporary welfare benefits, assistance in kind, housing, food, clothing, employment-related training, and specialized care. Foreign victims have a right to apply for permission for residence for up to 3 months and can join the Program for Support and Protection of Victim/Witness of Trafficking in Human Beings.

Following the March 2008 conclusion of IRIS -- an EU-funded project operated by La Strada in cooperation with the Women's Promotion Center, Social Assistance Center, Warsaw Labor Office and the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy to provide for the social and professional reintegration of TIP victims -- a model for social and professional integration of marginalized groups was created. Between January and June 2008, the model was presented in training programs for social workers, labor offices and NGOs. A total of 100 people were trained. In addition, a handbook was created on developing a comprehensive system of support and professional training for victims of trafficking who want to return to the labor market. The manual was distributed to all social workers trained in trafficking issues, social policy departments of regional offices, social policy centers and Crisis Intervention Centers. In 2009 the Ministry will continue promoting and distributing the model of reintegration of victims to social workers and NGOs.

26.F. VICTIM REFERRAL PROCESS. The government has a referral process to transfer victims detained, arrested or placed in protective custody by law enforcement authorities to institutions that provide victim assistance. The referral process was established in a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) developed by the Border Guard and police. The SOP consists of rules and procedures which officers are obliged to follow if they identify a trafficking victim and includes instructions

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on how to refer a victim to an appropriate institution or NGO. In the first quarter of 2008, the Anti-Trafficking Working Group established a group of experts which expanded the SOP to include procedures for Polish victims. In April 2008, the new version of the SOP was distributed among the police and Border Guard.

26.G. STATISTICS ON VICTIMS. According to the National Police Central Anti-Trafficking Unit, 62 persons were

identified as trafficking victims under Article 253, four were identified as victims under Article 204 (forced prostitution abroad), and 28 were identified as victims under Article 203 (forced prostitution).

In 2008, 22 adult victims and two child victims participated in the Victim/Witness Assistance Program (18 new clients and four from the previous year). All of them were referred to the program by law enforcement officers (i.e., police or Border Guard). It was the first year that the program provided assistance to men (2) and children (2). The victims who joined the program in 2008 came from Bulgaria (6 persons), Mongolia (4), Romania (3), Belarus (2), Nigeria (1), Djibouti (1), Moldova (2), Germany (1) and Ukraine (2). Victims were mainly trafficked for sexual exploitation (11) and forced labor (6). In four cases foreigners were forced to beg and one person was sexually harassed. Out of the 22 victims, 21 decided to cooperate with law enforcement.

In 2008 La Strada provided assistance to 308 persons who were victims of trafficking (including 100 victims from previous years). Fifteen percent were male. Less than 20 percent of the victims were foreigners. Of all the victims, 60 percent were trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation (e.g., forced prostitution), 20 percent for labor exploitation and forced labor, and 20 percent for begging and petty crimes. In 2008 La Strada assisted 24 persons in its shelter (both Polish and foreign nationals).

26.H. VICTIM IDENTIFICATION. The government recognizes the need to improve victim identification and continued to expand its training programs to increase the capacity of law enforcement, immigration, and social services personnel to identify victims of trafficking, especially among high-risk persons with whom they come in contact. The Interior Ministry, National Police, and NGOs are generally satisfied with new training efforts in place to address this concern and with the degree of cooperation between law-enforcement and victim assistance providers. The police and border guard have an SOP for dealing with trafficking victims (see 26.F). There is no legalized or regulated sex industry in Poland (see 25.K).

26.I. VICTIMS' RIGHTS. The rights of victims are generally respected. Standard operating procedures for Border Guard and police officers provide detailed instructions on how to deal with victims to ensure that their rights are properly protected. Border Guard and police officers are instructed to inform the victim about the right to a "reflection period" and about the Witness/Victim Protection Program. La Strada observed a considerable improvement among Border Guard in terms of their understanding of trafficking. According to the National Prosecution Office, in 2008 there were no cases in which a victim was prosecuted for a violation of other laws. In one case, it was revealed that a victim provided a false testimony about alleged trafficking for sexual exploitation. The case was first discontinued but now the case is further investigation on false testimony about a crime which was not committed.

On February 20, 2009, the Minister of Justice and Prosecutor General sent out a set of guidelines to all prosecution offices around the country with instructions on how to deal with victims of crimes to make sure that their rights are properly protected when in contact with law enforcement. The main goal of these guidelines is to enhance the position of victims in relation to police, prosecutors and courts. Although the guidelines do not focus specifically on trafficking victims, they are expected to contribute to better protection of TIP victims



26.J. VICTIM PARTICIPATION IN INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS. The government encourages and facilitates victim participation in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking (see 26.A). In 2008, 21 foreign victims agreed to participate in the prosecution of their traffickers. La Strada assisted nine victims/witnesses in court proceedings against their traffickers. In nine court proceedings, La Strada participated as a social representative. In addition, La Strada also monitored five cases under a special project to monitor long-term prosecution cases. Victims may file civil suits against traffickers but there were no such cases in 2008. The victims may also receive financial compensation through legal action in a form of adhesion proceedings as part of the criminal proceedings against traffickers. However, La Strada expressed concern that prosecutors do not adequately incorporate the compensation or restitution process into criminal proceedings, e.g., by securing assets of perpetrators or estimating the amount of compensation or damages to which victims are entitled.

26.K. TRAINING. The government provides specialized training for government officials in identifying trafficking victims and in the provision of assistance to trafficked victims, including the special needs of trafficked children (see 25.F). A questionnaire developed in 2007 by Warsaw University at the request of the Interior Ministry serves as an identification tool used by police and border guard officers. It is now included in the Standard Operating Procedures for law enforcement and is also used as an instruction tool in all victim identification training for law enforcement officers.

The government also provides formal training on victim identification and assistance to personnel at its embassies and consulates in destination or transit countries. The MFA included a special module on trafficking in a basic training for all consular officers. In 2008, one of the priorities for Polish consuls was to respond to all cases of persons cheated by unreliable employers and job agencies. They cooperated with local organizations and local institutions which provide assistance to victims of trafficking. Polish consuls also supported the establishment of local information centers in the Netherlands, Spain and the UK, which operate at municipal level, Polish centers, NGOs and trade unions, where Polish citizens could get information and necessary assistance in the Polish language. The MFA does not collect statistics on the number of Polish victims Polish consulates and embassies assisted abroad because this assistance is considered part of general consular service provided to Polish nationals.

26.L. VICTIM ASSISTANCE FOR POLISH NATIONALS. All victims of Polish nationality have the right for assistance under the revised Law on Social Assistance which entered into force on April 1, 2007. Polish victims are entitled to social assistance, including financial and non-financial support (i.e. medical and psychological care, shelter, meals, clothing).

26.M. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. The government cooperates with international organizations and NGOs, e.g., IOM, UNHCR, OSCE/ODIHR, La Strada (see 26.C).

#### PREVENTION -----

27.A. ANTI-TRAFFICKING INFORMATION AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS. The government carried out a number of education and anti-trafficking information campaigns during the reporting period. For example:

-- A campaign addressed to Poles seeking work in the EU member states, including information on possible threats

related to working abroad which was posted on two popular websites: Orbis (tourist agency) and Pracuj.pl (website for job seekers). In a booklet called "Employers 2008/2009" the Interior Ministry included a poster with similar information.

-- In cooperation with the British Embassy, the Interior

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Ministry published press advertisements in two periodicals: "Working and Studying Abroad" (50 thousand copies in Poland) and "Working and Living Abroad" (70 000 copies in Poland and 3,000 in the UK), which warn against trafficking for forced labor.

-- In cooperation with IOM and AmEmbassy Warsaw, the Interior Ministry organized the first mobile exhibit of 18 posters which presented photographs of victims and statistical information about trafficking. This traveling exhibit was on display at Warsaw's central train station for one week before circulating to six other major train stations around the country, including Poznan, Lodz, Katowice, Krakow, Wroclaw and Gdynia. Since October 23, 2008, the exhibit was also posted on a website ([www.stophandelludzm.pl](http://www.stophandelludzm.pl)), which offered readers the chance to present their opinions in an open forum.

-- In 2008, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs published the next issue of the "Pole Abroad" guidebook, which includes warnings against making hasty decisions on leaving Poland to work abroad or to use unreliable employment agencies. The 2008 edition of the guidebook includes information on the types of assistance which can be granted by Polish consuls abroad. The guidebook is also available on the MFA website.

-- In an effort to provide better protection for economic migrants, the MFA continued its program "Closer to Work, Closer to Poland" initiated in 2007. Under this program, information on trafficking was posted on the websites of Polish embassies.

-- NGOs La Strada and Caritas Warsaw carried out TIP-related information campaigns during a summer rock music festival concert for young people.

-- An information campaign was addressed to foreigners looking for work in Poland, which included distributing approximately 140,000 leaflets through Polish consulates in Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, Central Asia, and the Caucasus. The leaflets were attached to passports during the visa processing procedure. These activities will be continued in 2009-2010.

-- The Interior Ministry reprinted a leaflet on trafficking in Polish (1,000 copies) and English (200 copies). These publications, together with other prevention materials (Travel Compass, leaflet on trafficking in children, materials for the Program of support and protection of victims/witnesses of trafficking, leaflets for trafficking victims in six languages) were distributed to police units, police and Border Guard schools, NGOs and university research centers and libraries.

-- In November 2008 the Department for Women, Family and Counteracting Discrimination in the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy published 100,000 copies of the cartoon book "You Are Not for Sale," which was originally produced by the Council of Europe. It was translated by the Interior Ministry and will be part of a national prevention campaign aimed at young people, which will be carried out through schools.

-- In 2008 the Appeals Prosecution Office in Szczecin held a prevention campaign (leaflets and posters) for

people interested in working abroad. The website "This Train Does Not Go to Hollywood" was funded by the West Pomerania province and included practical information for persons who are going to work abroad. The information describes methods of recruitment of victims and also practical advice on what to do in case one falls victim to such a crime.

There were also events focused on prevention of human trafficking, organized on a regional level, including the November 20-21 conference on "Crisis Intervention for Trafficking Victims" organized in Poznan for employees of Crisis Intervention Centers and family assistance centers; an international conference in October on "Modern-Day Slavery" organized by the regional and local governments and the Police Academy in Legionowo for teachers, police officers and social workers in the

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Strzelce Opolskie region; a conference on "Prevention of Human Trafficking ? support for persons threatened by violence and cyber bullying, " organized by Tomaszow Mazowiecki regional authorities and addressed to police officers, teachers, school headmasters and social workers.

27.B. GOVERNMENT MONITORING OF IMMIGRATION PATTERNS. The Government monitors immigration and emigration patterns to identify possible new trends in trafficking (see 24.D and 25.G). In 2008, for the first time, the Central Anti-Trafficking Unit in the Police and Border Guard headquarters carried out special analyses with a focus on new trends in human trafficking. The results of these analyses will be included in the second edition of the report on trafficking to be published by the Interior Ministry later this year.

27.C. INTERAGENCY AND INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION. The government coordinates communication between various agencies, internal, international, and multilateral agencies and NGOs on trafficking-related matters (see 24.B).

27.D. NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION. In January 2009, the Interagency Working Group concluded its preparation of the fourth two-year National Action Plan for Combating Trafficking, which will cover 2009-2010 (see also 24.A). All government agencies and major NGOs involved in anti-trafficking efforts participated in drafting the Action Plan. This same process has been followed since the first plan was prepared in 2003-2004. The Action Plan is now pending final approval by the Council of Ministers.

After the Action Plan is approved by the government, it is distributed among all institutions in the Inter-Agency Working Group responsible for implementing the Action Plan. In addition, it is circulated during the annual national conference on trafficking organized by the Migration Policy Department of the Interior Ministry. It is also available on the Interior Ministry website in Polish and English.

27.E. DEMAND REDUCTION CAMPAIGNS. According to the Interior Ministry, the government ran no programs or campaigns related to specifically reducing the demand for commercial sex acts. As noted above, the police regularly monitor and, when necessary, shut down escort services (see 25.K).

27.F. CHILD SEX TOURISM. Government officials and NGOs assess that there is not a significant problem in Poland related to international child sex tourism. The Nobody's Children Foundation, a leading Polish NGO dealing with trafficking in children, agreed that sex tourism is not a problem, but noted that trafficking in children for sexual exploitation remains a problem. There were reports

of Polish teenage girls and boys engaged in "weekend prostitution," particularly in Germany. As noted (see 25.F), the government and NGOs continued to provide training in identification, protection, and provision of assistance to child victims of trafficking.

27.G. INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING. According to the Interior Ministry, training on human trafficking is included in the curriculum of all soldiers and police officers who are to be deployed for peacekeeping missions abroad. The Ministry of National Defense does not organize its own specialized courses or trainings on human trafficking but actively participates in those offered by other countries and/or organizations, e.g., NATO. Both military and civilian personnel are trained in the specifics of the mission as well as any potential criminal activities which may occur during the mission. For the military, human trafficking is part of the Standard Generic Training Module, which is prepared by the UN. The module covers topics related to sexual abuse, protection of children and human rights, which include the problem of human trafficking.

TIP HERO  
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128. Stana Buchowska is the co-founder of La Strada

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Poland, an NGO which in September 2008 celebrated thirteen years of regional leadership and activism in the fight against trafficking in persons in Central and Eastern Europe. Stana Buchowska is a long-time Embassy contact and widely respected for her courageous work.

La Strada's Shelter - Stana Buchowska and her staff, comprised of a few dedicated full-time employees and many volunteers, continue to run the only shelter in Poland exclusively for trafficking victims trying to rebuild their lives. La Strada provides trafficking victims, regardless of nationality, with psychological counseling, medical attention, reemployment training, access to legal representation, and countless other services under the auspices of their crisis prevention and social rehabilitation programs.

Government and NGO Cooperation - Stana Buchowska is both a skilled, attentive practitioner and an effective lobbyist for her cause. For many years she has advocated the need of creating a good system of assistance and support for trafficking victims, and that lobbying is paying dividends. She works tirelessly with the other members of the Polish interagency Anti-Trafficking Working Group on developing plans and operating procedures and implementing them. She works on a daily basis with Polish law enforcement officials who identify trafficking victims and deliver them to her capably equipped staff. As reflected in our TIP report this year, La Strada is the government's primary partner in the provision of TIP assistance. La Strada is also the "go-to" organization for Crisis Intervention Centers and nascent NGOs around the country who are involved in TIP assistance programs or awareness campaigns.

Training in Poland and the Region - Ms. Buchowska travels extensively throughout the region to La Strada partner organizations, regional conferences, and to conduct training in Poland's neighboring countries. La Strada has long been considered a primary Polish source of information on trends, statistics, and other trafficking in persons-related issues. Her organization reaches out to other countries and offers its expertise and know-how through various training in other countries of Central Europe, including Ukraine, Hungary, and Slovakia.

NOTE: Stana Buchowska's name, date of birth, and

nationality were cleared by Embassy RSO, CONS, and LEGATT. No derogatory information has been found.

#### BEST PRACTICES

¶29. In October 2008, the Interior Ministry and IOM, in cooperation with Embassy Warsaw, inaugurated a new trafficking in persons public awareness campaign called "Human Trafficking Has No Borders". The campaign consisted of a traveling exhibit of 18 posters which presented photographs of victims and statistical information about the phenomenon. The exhibit was on display in a prominent location at Warsaw's central train station for one week before circulating to six other major train stations around the country, including Poznan, Lodz, Katowice, Krakow, Wroclaw and Gdynia. The goal of the display was to present the problem of trafficking to the widest possible audience. The exhibit is part of the Polish government's national plan to raise awareness of this problem in Poland was rolled out immediately preceding Poland's Third National Trafficking in Persons Conference held on October 22, 2008. The display received positive media attention.

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